Message Text

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67

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

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R 121201Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4800

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK AMEMBASSY COLOMBO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, ETRD, SN

SUBJ: RUBBER - ANRPC NATURAL RUBBER PRICE STABILIZATION SCHEME

REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 1098, B. K.L. 1180: C. K.L. 1339, D. STATE 048719, E. BANGKOK 5420

- 1. REFTEL C REPORTS THAT RECENT ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON RUBBER PRICE STABILIZATION SCHEME.
- 2. DEPARTMENT OF TRADE DIRECTOR RIDZWAN DZAFIR, CHIEF SINGAPORE REPRESENTATIVE TO ANPRC BODIES, WAS NOT PRESENT AT KUALA LUMPUR MEETING AND THEREFORE NOT YET WELL INFORMED ON DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, RIDZWAN SAID AGREEMENT ACHIEVED BECAUSE MINISTERS HAD "TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION SINGAPORE'S TRADING POSITION".
- 3. SINGAPORE APPARENTLY OBTAINED SPECIAL CONSIDERATION ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEVEL OF ITS CONTRIBUTION TO STOCKPILE'S CENTRAL FUND. AC-

CORDING TO NEW NATION MARCH 11, THIS CONCESSION TO SINGAPORE DUE MAINLY TO INDONESIAN SUPPORT.

- 4. AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY LEFT UNCHANGED APPORTIONMENT OF PRICE STABILIZATION SCHEME RESPONSIBILITIES TO INDIVIDUAL ANRPC COUNTRIES (MALAYSIA 43PCT, INDONESIA 34PCT, THAILAND 12PCT, SINGAPORE 11PCT). HOWEVER, WHILE THREE PRODUCER COUNTRIES WILL MAKE 75PCT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO STOCKPILE IN CASH AND 25PCT IN STOCK, SINGAPORE NEED ONLY CONTRIBUTE 10PCT IN CASH, WITH REMAINING 90PCT TO BE STORED PHYSICALLY IN SINGAPORE.
- 5. RIDZWAN WAS NOT CERTAIN IF HE WOULD ATTEND MARCH 23 KUALA LUMPUR ANRPC MEETING OR INDEED, IN VIEW OF ASEAN ACTION, IF NEED FOR MEETING STILL EXISTED. HOWEVER, RIDZWAN SAID THAT ASEAN ACTION WOULD HAVE TO BE REVIEWED BY THE RUBBER TECHNICIANS NOT PRESENT AT ASEAN MINISTERIAL, I.E., BY ANRPC SUB-COMMITTEE ON PRICE STABILIZATION SCHEME. HE BELIEVES THAT ANRPC WILL RATIFY ASEAN BASIC AGREEMENT.
- 6. RIDZWAN WOULD NOT ACKNOWLEDGE ANY "SORT OF ALLIANCE" BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND THAILAND (REFTEL E, PARA 2). EACH ANRPC COUNTRY HAS SEPARATE INTERESTS.
- 7. EMBASSY HAS IMPRESSION THAT REMAINING QUESTIONS OF BUFFER STOCK FINANCING AND MANAGEMENT ARE NO LONGER REGARDED BY GOS AS SERIOUS OBSTACLES TO SINGAPORE PARTICIPATION IN PRICE STABILIZATION SCHEME. HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: EPAP, ETRD, SN, MY, ANRPC
To: STATE

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